(c) No, Sir. Conditional Access System (CAS) was rolled out in notified areas of 3 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata w.e.f. 31.12.2006 and in Chennai since 2003 with the objective to provide the consumer a choice to select and pay only for those pay channels which he desires to watch. As on 31st December 2007, the scheme has succeeded in enrolling a total number of 5,09,469 subscribers who have reportedly opted for Set Top Box (STB) in CAS notified areas of three metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Pashto Service on AIR

*24. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that The All India Radio (AIR) had Pashto service, which has popular in Pashto speaking areas;

(b) if so, why was it discontinued and since when;

(c) is there any proposal to restart it; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR has a Pashto Service, which was introduced in the year 1939. The Service has not been discontinued.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Digitization of EPF Records

*25. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees contributing to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Account as on 31st March of 2001, year-wise till 2007 and the volume of Provident Fund held in the corresponding periods;

(b) whether Government had taken up programme for digitization of the records of Employees Provident Fund;

(c) if so, the details of the programme indicating its origin, cost estimation and potential benefits which complete digitization would have accrued;

(d) the details of the progress made, so far in implementing the same, indicating reasons for the delay, if any; and

(e) the time-frame presently fixed, if any, for, complete digitization of the PF records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details are given in the Statement (*see* below)